

09/804,982

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Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 10, 11 and 44. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Previously presented) A hearing aid having a shell enclosing one or more hearing aid components, the shell including at least a substantially translucent or transparent faceplate, at least a portion of at least one hearing aid component located interior of the faceplate being tinted.
2. (Previously presented) The hearing aid of Claim 1 wherein the hearing aid is insertable into an ear canal.
3. (Previously presented) The hearing aid of Claim 1 wherein substantially all of the shell is translucent or transparent and is tinted the same color as the at least one hearing aid component.
4. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 1 wherein the hearing aid is disposable.
5. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 2 further comprising a cord extending from the hearing aid for pulling the hearing aid out of the ear canal, the cord also being tinted.
6. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 2 wherein the faceplate is externally visible after the hearing aid is inserted into the ear canal, the faceplate being tinted the same color as the at least one hearing aid component.
7. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 6 wherein the tint is selected from the following group of colors: gold, copper, tan, brown, and flesh colored.

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8. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 1 wherein the hearing aid components include a microphone, signal processing circuitry, a power source, or a receiver.
9. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 1 wherein the component is tinted by anodization techniques, heat treatments, or by silk screen methods.
10. (Currently amended) A hearing aid having a shell enclosing one or more hearing aid components, the shell being substantially translucent ~~or transparent~~ over substantially the entire surface of the shell.
11. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 42 wherein the substantially translucent ~~or transparent~~ shell is tinted the same color as the at least one hearing aid component.
12. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 11 wherein the tint is selected from the following group of colors: gold, copper, tan, brown, and flesh colored.
13. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 10 wherein the hearing aid is a behind-the-ear type hearing aid.
14. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 10 wherein the hearing aid is insertable into an ear canal.

Claims 15. - 41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously presented) The hearing aid of Claim 10, wherein at least a portion of at least one hearing aid component is tinted.
43. (Previously presented) The hearing aid of Claim 1, wherein the substantially translucent ~~or transparent~~ faceplate is tinted.

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44. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 10, wherein the substantially translucent ~~or transparent~~ shell is tinted.